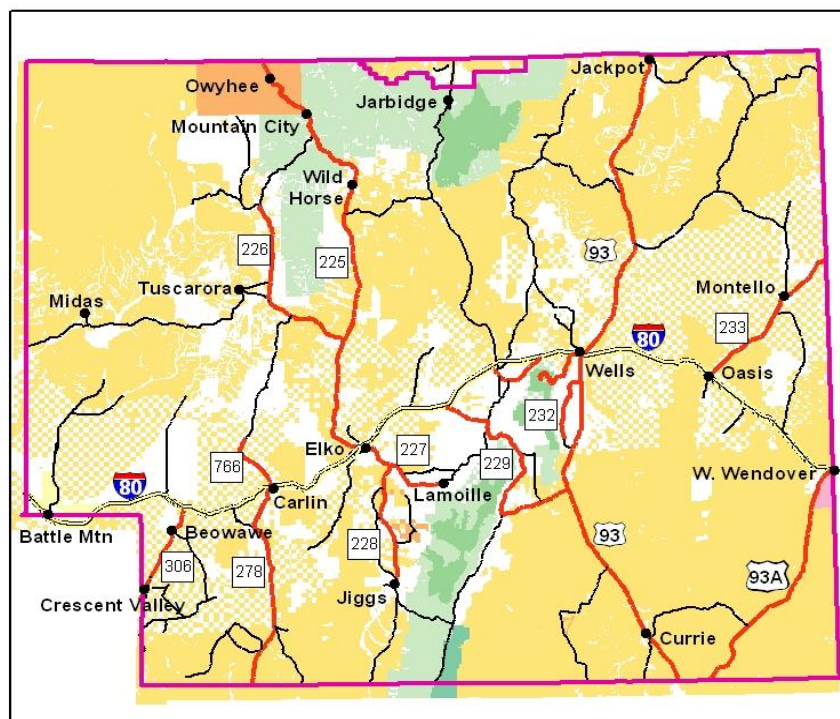


# 2008 Project and Planning Schedule



BLM Nevada, Elko District  
Tuscarora and Wells Field Offices

1790-NV-010  
July 2008 Update

Elko, Nevada



It is the mission of the Bureau of Land Management to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office  
3900 E. Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801  
[www.blm.gov/nv](http://www.blm.gov/nv)

### **2008 Project and Planning Schedule**

This *Project and Planning Schedule* is provided as a source of information on the status of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews underway at the BLM, Elko District, Tuscarora and Wells Field Office. We hope that this information will increase your awareness of our activities and opportunities to discuss them with us.

Proposals for which NEPA analyses are underway are grouped by program:

- A. Land Use Planning (Elko and Wells Resource Management Plans)
- B. Minerals
- C. Lands
- D. Recreation and Wilderness
- E. Fire Management (including Fuels, Fire Rehabilitation and Weeds)
- F. Grazing, Wildlife and Wild Horse Management Projects

To reduce unnecessary mailings, this *Schedule* is maintained on the Elko NEPA webpage at [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office/blm\\_information/nepa.htm](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_information/nepa.htm). Scoping information and NEPA analyses that are currently available for public comment are also posted on this website.

*If you wish to participate in the planning and decision making process for a project, please call our office (775-753-0200) and ask for the contact listed for it, or write or visit our office (see letterhead address). If you wish to be an "interested public" pursuant to livestock grazing regulations (43 CFR 4100.0-5), your request should be in writing and include:*

- 1) The specific allotment you are interested in by name; and
- 2) The specific type(s) of grazing management actions you are interested in for each allotment.

If you have general questions, please call our Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Lorrie West at 775-753-0266.

Thank you for your interest in our public lands!

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**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**TERMS AND ACRONYMS**

The following definitions may be useful to you as you read about plans and projects and their status, as listed within various sections of this *Schedule*.

**Allotment Assessments and Evaluations:** In Nevada, BLM completes assessments and evaluations of grazing allotments to determine if standards for rangeland health, established pursuant to grazing regulations, are being met. If not, changes in grazing management are proposed that are subject to public review.

**Categorical Exclusion (CX):** A category of actions that have not been found to individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment (EA) nor an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required to be prepared for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Decision Memorandum (DM):** A wildfire management decision document associated with a burned area rehabilitation or hazardous fuel reduction project that is categorically excluded from preparation of an EA or EIS.

**Decision Record (DR):** BLM's decision document that is typically associated with an environmental assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or a DNA.

**DNA (Determination of NEPA Adequacy):** The DNA process replaced BLM's Administrative Determination (AD) in 1999. DNAs are prepared to assist BLM in documenting conformance with the appropriate land use plan, and assess whether existing NEPA analysis document(s) (i.e., EA or EIS) adequately cover new proposals. Reliance on an existing NEPA analysis document is appropriate when: (1) a currently proposed action was previously proposed and analyzed, or is a part of an earlier proposal that was analyzed; (2) resource conditions and circumstances have not changed, and (3) there is no suggestion of a significant new and appropriate alternative. If the DNA review concludes that these conditions exist, preparation of an EA, or a new or supplemental EIS is not necessary before the action may be taken.

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** Under NEPA, an EA is used to determine whether or not a proposed action would result in significant impact(s) to the human environment. If not, preparation of an EIS is not required. An EA also serves as a vehicle for interdisciplinary review of a proposed action and identification of measures to mitigate impacts. EAs are sometimes prepared to facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A detailed statement that NEPA requires for major Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment. **DEIS** refers to a draft EIS, and **FEIS** refers to a final EIS.

**FLPMA:** Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1711).

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):** A FONSI is a document prepared by a Federal agency based on review of an EA that briefly presents the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an EIS will, therefore, not be prepared.

**Land Use Plans, Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and RMP Amendments:** Sections 201 and 202 of FLPMA and regulations at 43 CFR 1600 establish BLM land use planning requirements. Approved land use plans are the basis for every on-the-ground action BLM undertakes. RMPs establish goals and objectives for resource management, measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives, and parameters for using public lands under BLM jurisdiction. The 1985 Wells and 1987 Elko RMPs guide management of lands administered by the Elko Field Office. A plan amendment serves to address issues or proposals not considered by an existing RMP.

**Multiple Use Decision (MUD):** In Nevada, an Allotment Evaluation serves as the basis for issuing a MUD. MUDs are based on the attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health. Following completion of an Allotment Evaluation, a Proposed MUD (PMUD) is distributed to interested parties, typically with an EA and FONSI, before a Final MUD (FMUD) is issued.

**NEPA:** The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) is our basic national charter for protection of the environment.

**Notice of Intent (NOI):** A Notice of Intent (to prepare an EIS) is published in the *Federal Register*. Publication of a NOI notifies the public of proposed federal action(s) and usually initiates public scoping (issue identification) for preparation of the EIS.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** The decision document associated with an EIS.

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**Table of Contents**

<b>A. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>B. MINERALS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Emigrant Mine Project EIS .....	1
2. Newmont Mining Corporation’s Leeville Project Supplemental EIS .....	2
3. Newmont Mining South Operations Area Project Amendment SEIS.....	2
4. Barrick Goldstrike Betze Project Expansion SEIS .....	2
5. Newmont Mining Corp. Genesis-Bluestar Mine Expansion Project EIS....	3
6. Quarterly Elko District Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sales.....	3
7. Big Ledge Mining Plan .....	4
8. 2008 Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale .....	4
9. New West Gold Long Canyon Exploration Plan .....	4
10. Maverick Springs Exploration Plan Amendment .....	5
11. Jiggs Mineral Material Site Expansion .....	5
<b>C. LANDS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. TG Power Hot Sulphur Springs Transmission Line .....	5
2. Rock Creek Acquisition.....	5
3. Elko County/Ryndon Recreation Park and Community Fire Station.....	6
4. Bishop Creek Dam and Access Road .....	6
<b>D. RECREATION AND WILDERNESS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1. Rock Spring Rehabilitation Plan.....	6
2. Competitive Special Recreation Permits .....	7
3. Spruce Mountain Travel Management Plan .....	7
<b>E. FIRE MANAGEMENT AND INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1. Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plans.....	7
2. Dixie Fuelbreak .....	8

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

<b>3. Tabor Creek Campground Weed Treatment .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Domestic Goat Trials Weed Treatment .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5. Osino-Ryndon Fuelbreak .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6. Silver Lake Fuelbreak .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. Sadler-Garcia-Basin Fuel Break.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>F. GRAZING, WILDLIFE AND WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1. Rangeland Health Assessments and Grazing Permit Renewals.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2. Fourmile Butte Pasture Well, Pipeline and Riparian Fence.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3. Black Mountain Division Fence .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4. Boulder Well Pipeline .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5. Guard Corral Extension Fence.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6. Winters Creek/Mahogany Fence Reconstruction.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7. Forest Pipeline Reconstruction and Extension .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>8. Willow Tree Spring Exclosure and Development.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>9. Wagon Springs Aspen Exclosure and Spring Development .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>10. Barrick 15 Spring Improvements .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>11. Willow Creek Ridge Low Sagebrush Seeding .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>12. Emigrant Spring Fencing Project .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>13. Tijuana John Protective Fence.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>14. Trout Creek Exclosure Fence.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15. Antelope and Antelope Valley Emergency Wild Horse Gather.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>16. Owyhee Wild Horse Gather.....</b>	<b>14</b>



**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 update)**

**A. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**1. Elko District Land Use Plan Revision**

**Location:** Tuscarora and Wells Field Offices

**Description:** Two Resource Management Plans (RMPs) cover the Elko District, the 1987 Elko RMP and the 1985 Wells RMPs. Both plans have since been amended, most recently for fire management in 2004, and for wind energy in 2005. Approved RMPs, amendments, and associated NEPA documents are posted on the Elko District planning webpage at

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office/blm\\_programs/planning.htm](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/planning.htm).

**Status:** Consolidation and revision of the plans, which will include preparation of an EIS, is currently scheduled to begin in 2011. In the interim, program and/or area specific resource management problems will continue to be addressed by proposed plan amendments. **Contact:** Lorrie West

**2. Elko District Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Planning**

**Type of Action:** Amend the Elko District Resource Management Plans for Travel Management.

**Location:** Tuscarora and Wells Field Offices

**Description:** Comprehensive travel and transportation management planning for the Elko District to revise or amend the 1987 Elko and 1985 Wells Resource Management Plans is in the preliminary stages of development. It will be included in the new Land Use Plans or as an amendment to the existing Land Use Plans. This would entail determining District-wide OHV designations (Limited, Closed, Open to motorized vehicles), and establishing a transportation system for existing roads and trails.

**Status:** Baseline data of existing roads and trails is being collected for use in establishing a transportation system. Spruce Mountain is the first travel management area to be delineated (see section D, Recreation).

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**B. MINERALS**

**1. Emigrant Mine Project EIS**

**Type of Action:** Locatable mineral exploration plan of operation

**Location:** About ten miles south of Carlin, Nevada.

T. 32 N., R. 53 E., portions of sections 24, 26, 34, 36

T. 31 N., R. 53 E., portions of sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 12

**Description:** The Newmont Mining Corporation has submitted a Plan of Operations to open the Emigrant Mine. The proposed gold mine would include developing and operating an open pit mine; constructing a waste rock disposal facility, storing mined out areas of the pit with oxide waste; developing an oxide heap leach pad; constructing ancillary facilities; temporarily rerouting intermittent stream and flows in the pit area; and concurrent reclamation. Proposed mining operations would last for approximately 9

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

years. Approximately 1,172 acres of public land and 260 acres of private land would be disturbed.

**Status:** A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS published in the Federal Register 3/25/2005. Comments resulted in additional studies to address concerns for potential water quality impacts, and Newmont is revising their mining plan considering results of the studies. Revised Draft EIS to be re-issued late in 2008.

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

**2. Newmont Mining Corporation's Leeville Project Supplemental EIS**

**Type of Action:** Supplementation of the cumulative effects analysis for a mining plan

**Location:** North of Carlin, Nevada

**Description:** On September 25, 2002, BLM signed a Record of Decision for the Leeville Project, located in the Carlin Trend in northeastern Nevada. The Leeville Mine includes three main ore bodies located about 2,500 feet below ground level. The approved plan authorized Newmont to construct facilities, including five shafts to access the ore bodies, shaft hoists, waste rock disposal facility, refractory ore stockpiles, facilities to support mine dewatering and facilities to support backfill operations. Surface disturbance totals 486 acres. Four years of legal review resulted in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit partially reversing the decision. In response, the BLM is reviewing and updating the cumulative impacts analysis of the 2002 EIS, and will issue a Supplemental EIS.

**Status:** NOI to prepare the SEIS published in the Federal Register on 3/7/2007. NOA of the Draft SEIS published 8/31/2007 for a 60-day public comment period. The Final EIS to be available in fall 2008.

**Contact:** Deb McFarlane

**3. Newmont Mining South Operations Area Project Amendment SEIS**

**Type of Action:** Supplementation of the cumulative effects analysis for a mining plan

**Location:** Northwest of Carlin, Nevada

**Description:** On July 26, 2002, BLM signed a Record of Decision for the South Operations Area Project Amendment, located on the Carlin Trend in northeastern Nevada. The decision authorizes Newmont Mining Corporation to mine an additional 350 feet below what had been previously approved, to expand waste rock disposal and leach facilities by 139 acres, to continue dewatering and groundwater discharge to Maggie Creek, and to construct ancillary facilities. Four years of legal review resulted in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit partially reversing the decision. In response, the BLM is reviewing and updating the cumulative impacts analysis of the 2002 EIS, and will issue a Supplemental EIS.

**Status:** NOI to prepare the SEIS published in the Federal Register on 3/7/2007. NOA of the Draft SEIS published 8/31/2007 for a 60-day public comment period. The Final EIS to be available in fall 2008.

**Contact:** Deb McFarlane

**4. Barrick Goldstrike Betze Project Expansion SEIS**

**Type of Action:** Amendment of a mining plan of operation

**Location:** Elko and Eureka Counties, about 25 miles northwest of Carlin, Nevada

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**Description:** In January 2007, Barrick Goldstrike, Inc., submitted an amendment to the approved mining plan that proposes to expand the Goldstrike Mine. The proposed amendment includes four primary components: 1) a third tailings facility, which includes burial of an existing tailings facility; 2) a new waste rock facility (Clydesdale); 3) expansion of the open pit by 296 acres, which would increase of the size of the post-mining pit lake from 800 to 900 acres; and 4) an extension of mining activities, including employment and dewatering, for four years until approximately 2015. Ancillary facilities that would affect intermittent drainages include a new haul road with culverts over Rodeo Creek and diversion channels for a portion of Bell Creek and Rodeo Creek. The amendment also proposes to accelerate reclamation of the Bazza Waste Rock Facility.

**Status:** Proposed mining plan amendment posted on the Elko NEPA webpage in January 2007. NOI to prepare the SEIS published in the Federal Register 5/25/2007, and an open house held at the Elko Field Office 6/25/2007. Draft SEIS to be issued in August 2008.

**Contact:** Kirk Laird

**5. Newmont Mining Corp. Genesis-Bluestar Mine Expansion Project EIS**

**Type of Action:** Amendment of a mining plan of operation

**Location:** Eureka County, about 25 miles northwest of Carlin, Nevada

**Description:** In November 2007, Newmont submitted an amendment to the Plan of Operations for Bluestar-Genesis, an open pit gold mine in Eureka County, Nevada. The proposed amendment includes seven main components: expansion of two open pits, development of a new open pit, backfilling of four open pit excavations, expansion of two waste rock facilities, construction of new haul roads and access roads, processing of 60 million tons of ore, and twelve additional years of mining employment and economic activity in the local area. The amendment involves 43 acres of new disturbance, including 24 acres of public land and 19 acres of private land. The Genesis-Bluestar Plan of Operations has been in operation since the mid 1990s in the central portion of the Carlin Trend.

**Status:** NOI published in the Federal Register on 3/18/2008. Open house held at the Elko Field Office on 4/9/2008. The EIS will be prepared by a third party contractor.

**Contact:** Kirk Laird

**6. Quarterly Elko District Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sales**

**Type of Action:** Oil & Gas Competitive Lease Sale

**Location:** Elko District

**Description:** Competitive oil and gas lease sales are conducted quarterly in March, June, September, and December. The proposed parcels to be leased can be found on the Nevada BLM web site ([www.blm.gov/nv.htm](http://www.blm.gov/nv.htm)) 45 days prior to the sale date. The Elko District may or may not have proposed parcels available for leasing on each quarterly sale. Leasing parcels is the initial step in the search for oil and gas. Subsequent actions to leasing parcels are exploration, development, production of oil and gas, and eventual abandonment plugging of wells and reclamation of the site. These subsequent actions create surface disturbance, which is analyzed when a lessee submits plans for the action.

**Status:** An EA completed in September 2005 (No. 2005/030) has been relied on as DNAs are completed for parcels nominated for quarterly lease sales in 2008.

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**7. Big Ledge Mining Plan**

**Type of Action:** Locatable mineral mining plan of operation (N82730)

**Location:** Snake Range, about 28 miles northwest of Wells NV

T. 42 N., R. 62 E., sections 9, 10, 15, 16

T. 42 N., R. 61 E., sections 22, 24, 26, 27, 34 and 36

**Description:** Spirit Minerals submitted a plan for the Big Ledge Mine Project. Barite was mined at the Big Ledge Mine in the late 1970s and early 80s, before the price and demand for barite dropped dramatically. Barite is primarily used as a heavy component of the drilling mud used by the oil and gas industry. Mining of approximately 300 acres of known reserves in the project area is expected to last approximately 3 years, and exploration to define further reserves is ongoing. Ore would be milled at the proposed Dry Creek site, for shipping by truck to a processing plant in Evanston WY

**Status:** EA completed in November 2007 (No. 2008/009). FONSI/DR signed on 12/3/07. Documents posted on the Elko NEPA webpage on 12/10/07.

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

**8. 2008 Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale**

**Type of Action:** Geothermal lease

**Location:** District-wide

**Description:** The Nevada State office is proposing to offer leases on 10 parcels in the Elko District that have been nominated by industry in a state-wide competitive lease sale in summer of 2008. The leasing and subsequent development of geothermal resources is encouraged to help meet domestic demands for energy and lessen American demand for foreign energy resources. Ethnographic studies are ongoing for parcels nominated near Beowawe and in Ruby Valley, and so the Elko District prefers to defer leasing of these two parcels until the studies are completed in coordination with affected tribes.

**Status:** Open house held 11/8/07. Public scoping invitation mailed on 11/21/07.

Updated list of proposed lease sale parcels provided by the Nevada State Office in April 2008. EA posted to Elko webpage on 6/9/08.

**Contact:** Jim Lindsay

**9. New West Gold Long Canyon Exploration Plan**

**Type of Action:** Mining Exploration Plan of Operation

**Location:** Pequop Mountains, 25 miles southeast of Wells, NV

T. 36 N., R. 66 S. sections 21, 28, 29, 32

**Description:** New West Gold USA Inc. submitted a plan of operations for exploration in the Long Canyon area on the east side of the Pequop Mountains. New West proposes to cut drill roads, drill pads, and trenches and to drill exploration holes in phases. Phase I would disturb about 19 acres of land. Subsequent phases would disturb an additional 21 acres. New West is permitted by Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to disturb up to 20 acres on split estate land within the project area. Almost 5 acres of public land have been disturbed under an existing notice. The total proposed disturbance is approximately 65 acres.

**Status:** Scoping initiated 7/25/07. EA should be available for comment in summer 2008.

**Contact:** Deb McFarlane

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**10. Maverick Springs Exploration Plan Amendment**

**Location:** Elko and White Pine Counties

T.26N., R.59E., section(s) 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

**Description:** Maverick Silver Inc, has acquired the Maverick Springs Exploration project from the previous operator, Vista Gold, with its previously permitted activities totaling 7.6 acres of disturbance and has submitted an amendment to the exploration plan of operations to disturb another 6.0 acres with drilling related disturbance.

**Status:** Scoping for preparation of an EA

**Contact:** Frank Bergwall

**11. Jiggs Mineral Material Site Expansion**

**Type of Action:** Transportation System authorization (NEV-001525)

**Location:** South of Spring Creek, Nevada off SR228 at milepost 10.54

T. 33 N., R. 56 E., section 18

**Description:** The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), for the Federal Highway Administration, has applied for an 120-acre material site expansion off SR228 at milepost 10.54. Access is from Hilltop Drive. The existing material site is 80 acres. The original application NEV-001525 was granted in May 1950, and amended in June 1991.

**Status:** Cooperating with NDOT in preparing EA

**Contact:** Tom Schmidt

**C. LANDS**

**1. TG Power Hot Sulphur Springs Transmission Line**

**Type of Action:** Right-of-way (N-83204)

**Location:** Independence Valley, north of Tuscarora

**Description:** TG Power applied for a 120 kV transmission line right-of-way for a geothermal power plant project that is being developed on private land north of the Spanish Ranch, along the Hot Creek tributary to the South Fork Owyhee River. The proposed transmission line would be about 24.5 miles long, with about 8.5 miles crossing public lands. The transmission line would begin at the power plant site in T. 41 N., R. 52 E., section 8, and tie into the Sierra Pacific Power Company Humboldt Substation in T. 39N., R. 54 E., section 31, about 7 miles west of the intersection of State Routes 226 and 225.

**Status:** EA No. 2008/010 completed and posted for public comment with a news release on 2/25/07. EA finalized, FONSI signed and DR issued 3/21/08.

**Contact:** Lorrie West

**2. Rock Creek Acquisition**

**Type of Action:** Land acquisition

**Location:** Rock Creek, west of Tuscarora, NV (Elko County)

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

T. 40 N., R. 48 E. and T. 40 N., R. 49 E

**Description:** The Rock Creek property, owned by Oro Vaca Inc., was nominated for acquisition under Round 4 of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act process in 2003. The lands encompass 6157.86 acres of land, along Rock Creek and four tributaries, Trout, Pole, Soldier, and Coyote Creeks in Elko County. The final recommendation to acquire the property was made in consideration of comments received, and the Secretary of the Interior approved funding of the acquisition. Once the property is acquired, BLM will develop a plan for management of the property and surrounding lands to enhance fisheries and riparian resources and improve habitat for sage grouse, mule deer, and other wildlife.

**Status:** EA completed (2008/008), FONSI/DR signed 11/27/07; posted 12/4/07.

**Contact:** Deb McFarlane, Allen Mariluch

**3. Elko County/Ryndon Recreation Park and Community Fire Station**

**Type of Action:** Recreation & Public Purposes Act lease (N-78530)

**Location:** Ryndon

T.35 N., R. 57 E., section 6

**Description:** Elko County has submitted an application to use about 8.9 acres of public land for development of recreational facilities, including baseball, softball, soccer and football fields, a children's park, outdoor picnic area and other outdoor uses. Another acre of public land is proposed for a Nevada Division of Forestry fire station.

**Status:** Scoping

**Contact:** Debora Boudreau

**4. Bishop Creek Dam and Access Road**

**Type of Action:** Right of way (NVN-79079)

**Location:** Bishop Creek north of Wells NV

**Description:** The Metropolis Water Irrigation District is proposing to replace the Bishop Creek Dam, which would require they improve and use an access road from Highway 93 to the dam along the south side of Bishop Creek, along a national historic trail. The purpose of the project is to impound water in the currently abandoned Bishop Creek Dam and use it for irrigation. Replacement of the dam would involve hauling large quantities of construction materials on the access road and construction of staging areas near the site of the dam.

**Status:** Baseline studies underway by a contractor.

**Contact:** Joey James Giustino

**D. RECREATION AND WILDERNESS**

**1. Rock Spring Rehabilitation Plan**

**Type of Action:** Wilderness Study Area - restoration

**Location:** Bluebell WSA

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**Description:** The proposal is to modify a spring development for long-term use within the WSA while also restoring vegetation to the area. Issues involved are wild horses, historic and cultural, wilderness characteristics, and wildlife.

**Status:** Cancelled

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**2. Competitive Special Recreation Permits**

**Type of Action:** Permitting of Competitive off highway vehicle events.

**Location:** Wendover and Pequop area.

**Description:** Various off highway vehicle clubs submit application to hold competitive OHV events on public lands. Permits go through the NEPA process are approved with stipulations. Proposed events are as follows:

- Utah Desert Foxes August 16, 2008 competitive motorcycle and 4-wheeler race south of Wendover.
- Bonneville Offroad Racing Enthusiasts (BORE) September 20, 2008 competitive OHV race south of Wendover.
- Buzzards Motorcycle Club November 1, 2008 competitive motorcycle race currently proposed on public lands in the Woodhills and Pequop Mountains area.

**Status:** The Utah Desert Foxes event is being re-routed and undergoing NEPA compliance. The BORE proposal is being evaluated based on conditions at the site later in the year. Scoping will commence in early September if the proposal moves forward. The Buzzards proposal is in preliminary stages to determine an adequate motorcycle race route, and EA scoping may be initiated in fall 2008.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**3. Spruce Mountain Travel Management Plan**

**Type of Action:** Travel management land use and activity plan

**Location:** South of Wells, Nevada, in the Spruce Mountain area, encompassing 450,000 acres in NDOW Hunt Unit 105.

**Description:** Through the Spruce Mountain Settlement Agreement, the BLM is tasked with completing a Travel Management Plan. Included in the plan will be a proposal to amend the 1985 Wells RMP to change the OHV designation from open, designation of travel routes and types of travel, and seasonal limitations on specific routes.

**Status:** Data collection and preparation of a draft plan are ongoing. Public scoping should begin in the spring of 2009.

**Contact:** Tamara Hawthorne

**E. FIRE MANAGEMENT AND INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES**

**1. Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plans**

**Type of Action:** Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation projects

**Location:** Wherever wildlife occurs on Elko District lands

**Description:** Emergency Stabilization and/or Rehabilitation Plans (ES/R) of burned areas are completed, implemented and monitored over a 3-year period following the

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

wildfire event. in accordance with national fire plan procedures. Plans that propose treatments for specific fires tier to the EA prepared for the Elko and Wells Resource Management Plans Fire Management Amendment (No. 2003/026) and supplement the “Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan” EA (No. 2000/037). Proposed treatments may include seeding, fencing, dozer line rehabilitation, monitoring, road repair, horse gathers, cultural surveys, noxious weed control, tree and shrub planting, and erosion and sediment control structures.

**Status:** Wildfires that burned in summer of 2007 for which ES/R plans have been approved in fiscal year 2008 were for the West Basin, Eccles, Scott Creek, West Fork, Marge, Redhouse, Mile Marker 288, Hepworth, Party, Sansinea, Barth 2, Bailey, Willow Creek and HD Summit fires.

**Contact:** Tom Warren

**2. Dixie Fuelbreak**

**Type of Action:** Hazardous fuel reduction

**Location:** Crane Springs, Sleeman, and El Jiggs Allotments

**Description:** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to construct and maintain a fuelbreak across public lands in Elko County, Nevada to protect private property and public resources in the Lucky Nugget and Twin Bridges residential areas and the Red Springs and Cedar Ridge Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The fuelbreak would be approximately 23 miles long, within portions of the Crane Springs, Sleeman, and El Jiggs grazing allotments. The fuelbreak would be constructed using a mower to reduce the fuel component, and maintained using mechanical and/or biological (livestock grazing) methods.

**Status:** Planning and CX completed (No. 2008/001). Decision signed 10/2/07.

**Contact:** Ky Kinkade

**3. Tabor Creek Campground Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Public lands within the Tabor Creek Campground

**Description:** Herbicide and biological treatment of Canada thistle infestation throughout the Tabor Creek Campground.

**Status:** Project deferred until further notice, due to wildfires rehabilitation workload.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

**4. Domestic Goat Trials Weed Treatment**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (vegetation treatment)

**Location:** Maggie Creek drainage and Lower Mitchell Creek drainage

**Description:** Biological treatment of Scotch thistle, leafy spurge infestation using domestic goats as a treatment regime.

**Status:** Project deferred until further notice, due to wildfire rehabilitation workload.

**Contact:** Mark Coca

**5. Osino-Ryndon Fuelbreak**

**Type of Action:** Hazardous fuel reduction (Wildland Urban Interface)

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment



**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**Description:** The Elko District Office is proposing to develop a fuel break in cooperation with Ryndon, Osino, White Rock and Elburz community group (ROWE). The project would consist of mowing approximately 250 acres of sagebrush community using agricultural tractor(s) and pull behind rotary cutter(s). The fuel break would be approximately five miles in length and 300- 500 feet wide. Vegetation would be mowed to a height of approximately four inches. The primary objective is to reduce sagebrush fuel loadings next to the communities thus reducing the threat of wildfire to the communities. The project is targeted for completion in the summer/fall of 2008.

**Status:** Scoping completed in July 2007

**Contact:** Tom Reid

**6. Silver Lake Fuelbreak**

**Type of Action:** Hazardous fuel reduction

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment

**Description:** The Elko District is proposing to conduct a hazardous fuels reduction in the Owyhee Desert along Chimney Creek. This fuelbreak would begin at the northern edge of the 2006 Winters fire and run north 18.5 miles to the Twelvemile dry lake bed. Another section of this fuels treatment would run east to west 10.5 miles from Chimney Creek Road to Corral Lake. The fuelbreak would be constructed adjacent to the road, conditions permitting. This treatment is planned to be implemented in the summer/fall of 2008. The fuelbreak would be constructed via tractor or tractors pulling a brush mower or vine rollers. The Silver Lake Fuelbreak would be 29.5 miles long and 300-500 feet in width, consisting of approximately 1500 acres.

**Status:** EA scoping letter mailed 6/24/08, with request for input by 7/11/08.

**Contact:** Tom Reid

**7. Sadler-Garcia-Basin Fuel Break**

**Type of Action:** Hazardous fuel reduction

**Location:** Jiggs area

**Description:** The BLM is proposing to construct and maintain a fuel break across public lands in Elko County NV. The fuel break would be approximately 20 miles long comprising about 4500 acres west southwest of Jiggs NV. It would extend and strengthen other fuel breaks in the area, to help protect the community of Jiggs and several ranches in the nearby area. Its construction would primarily be accomplished in 2008, but may be extended into future years.

**Status:** Public scoping initiated in July 2007.

**Contact:** Ky Kinkade

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**F. GRAZING, WILDLIFE AND WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT**

**1. Rangeland Health Assessments and Grazing Permit Renewals**

In accordance with Wells and Tuscarora Field Office priorities for renewing grazing permits, assessments and evaluations are completed to determine if standards and guidelines for rangeland health in northeastern Nevada and resource management objectives are being met.

The following assessments and evaluations are underway to support the grazing permit renewal process

<b>Grazing Allotment(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Hubbard Vineyard	Update to a 1997 evaluation issued in May 2007. EA (No. 2008/001) issued for public comment 10/5/07. A multiple use decision issued 2/14/08 was appealed, stay granted 5/2/08, and a hearing is being scheduled.	Jeff Moore
Frost Creek Allotment	PMUD issued August 6, 2002. Scoping and preparation of an EA underway.	Amy Ruhs
Deeth (south portion) Pole Creek	Evaluation issued for public comment in November 2003. Additional data collected for analysis in 2008.	Pat Coffin
Mexican Field Cotant	Standards and guidelines assessment issued in September 2002. Scoping and preparation of an EA for renewing the permit underway.	Donna Jewell
Barnes Seeding Pearl Creek	Standards and guidelines assessment issued in September 2002. Scoping initiated in 2007, and preparation of an EA for renewal of the permit underway.	Donna Jewell
Browne	Evaluation issued for public comment in May 1997. Collection monitoring data on wild horse (Diamond Herd Management Area) and livestock use.	Justin Rodgers
North Fork Group Coal Mine Basin Halleck FFR	Monitoring Report (Data Summary) to be sent out for comment summer 2008	Justin Rodgers
Pilot Gamble Individual HD Dairy Summit Pilot Valley	Monitoring contracted for completing standards and guidelines assessment.	Janice Willard
Badlands Goshute Peak	Completing standards and guidelines assessment	Bruce Thompson
Squaw Valley Eleven-Mile White House	Monitoring contracted for completing standards and guidelines assessment	Donna Jewell

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

<b>Grazing Allotment(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Metropolis Seeding Belligeer Seeding Dalton Hog Tommy Bottari	Completing standards and guidelines assessment	Jeff Moore Karl Scheetz

**2. Fourmile Butte Pasture Well, Pipeline and Riparian Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (water well, pipeline, riparian protection fence)

**Location:** Owyhee Allotment

T. 43 N., R. 49 E., section 3 SW¼SE¼ (proposed well location)

T. 43 N., R. 49 E., Sec 10, 11, 12 (portion of proposed pipeline)

T. 43 N., R. 50 E., Sec. 6 (portion of riparian fence)

T. 44 N., R. 49 E., Sec 25, 35, 36 (portion of riparian fence; portion of pipeline)

T. 44 N., R. 50 E., Sec 31 (portion of riparian fence)

**Description:** These projects were outlined in the Owyhee Final Multiple Use Decision dated April 19, 2002. Scoping input was solicited in April 2005, and included in the Sensitive Bird Species EIS. A well would be drilled on public lands within the Lower Fourmile Pasture. A storage tank, pipeline and troughs would be associated with this well to distribute the water in the pasture. Approximately 4 miles of 3-strand fence would be constructed to eliminate livestock grazing from the public land portion of the South Fork Owyhee River where it transects this pasture. These projects are proposed to improve riparian and upland habitat along the South Fork of the Owyhee River by improving livestock distribution in the upland areas of the pasture while excluding livestock from the river bottom.

**Status:** Further planning to be scheduled in 2008.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**3. Black Mountain Division Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** 25 Allotment

T. 35 N., R. 48 E., sections 17, 18

T. 35 N., R. 47 E., sections. 13, 18

**Description:** Approximately 3 miles of 3-strand fence is proposed to divide the Black Mountain and Sheep Creek areas and provide proper control and management of livestock to enhance and improve riparian conditions along Rock Creek. This project would be considered as part of developing a grazing system for revision of the 25 Allotment Management Plan and fully processing renewal of the grazing permit.

**Status:** Deferred in 2008.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**4. Boulder Well Pipeline**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline with several troughs)

**Location:** 25 Allotment

T. 36 N., R. 48 E., sections 14, 15, 19, 20, 21

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**Description:** A pipeline is proposed starting at the Boulder Well and extending into the Six Mile Pasture from the Boulder Field. This will help distribute livestock and provide water for wildlife in accordance with the 25 Allotment Management Plan. A third party easement would be required, as the pipeline crosses private property not owned by the permittee. This project would be considered as part of developing a grazing system for revision of the 25 Allotment Management Plan and fully processing renewal of the grazing permit.

**Status:** Deferred in 2008.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**5. Guard Corral Extension Fence**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment

T. 37 N., R. 44 E., sections 12 and 14

**Description:** Approximately 0.9 miles of 4-strand fence would be constructed to divide the Indian Springs and Horseshoe Pastures. This project would be considered as part of developing a grazing system for fully processing renewal of the grazing permit.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. Additional monitoring data to support renewing the grazing permit is being collected in 2008.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**6. Winters Creek/Mahogany Fence Reconstruction**

**Type of Action:** Range improvement (fence)

**Location:** Spanish Ranch Allotment

T. 41 N., R. 48 E. and T. 41 N., R. 49 E.

**Description:** Approximately 14 miles of 4-strand fence would be reconstructed to divide the Winters Creek, Burner Hills, and Fourmile/Red Cow Pastures.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design and cultural inventory have been completed. Additional planning to support the grazing permit renewal deferred in 2008.

**Contact:** Donna Jewell

**7. Forest Pipeline Reconstruction and Extension**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (pipeline)

**Location:** Willow Creek Pockets Allotment

T. 30 N., R. 57 E. section 18 NE¼

**Description:** Reconstruct and extend the Forest Pipeline in the Upper Field of the Willow Creek Pockets Allotment. The pipeline originates on private land, and the landowner would reconstruct the private land portion from the water source (Forest Spring) to the public land boundary (less than ¼ mile). The BLM, in cooperation with private landowner, may cooperate in a project to extend the pipeline on public land (approximately 3.5 miles).

**Status:** Initial project identification

**Contact:** Justin Rodgers

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**8. Willow Tree Spring Enclosure and Development**

**Type of Action:** Range Improvement (spring development)

**Location:** Deeth Allotment

T. 38 N., R. 59 E., section 5

**Description:** This project would consist of constructing an enclosure (approximately 1 mile of fence) and developing a spring. The spring development would include a pipeline and troughs to supply water to the middle section of the Steer Field in the Deeth Allotment. Developing this spring would not only protect the existing riparian area, but would also provide water to improve livestock distribution in this field.

**Status:** Deferred in 2008. May be considered as part of processing grazing permit

**Contact:** Wendy Fuell

**9. Wagon Springs Aspen Enclosure and Spring Development**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Beaver Creek Allotment

**Description:** A spring would be developed and protected with construction of a combination of wood and rail fence enclosure. The development would consist of 2 water troughs.

**Status:** Preliminary survey and design.

**Contact:** Nycole Burton

**10. Barrick 15 Spring Improvements**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment and other areas

**Description:** Restore up to 15 spring riparian sites, by constructing a fence enclosure or other means as deemed appropriate. Restoration is identified as part of the Barrick Goldstrike Mines, Inc. mitigation commitments for the Betze Project.

**Status:** Scoping completed; NEPA in progress

**Contact:** Nycole Burton and Carol Evans

**11. Willow Creek Ridge Low Sagebrush Seeding**

**Type of Action:** Habitat Restoration

**Location:** Squaw Valley Allotment

T. 39 N, R.48 E, sections 2, 3, 10 and 11

**Description:** In cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and Barrick Goldstrike Mining Company, BLM proposes application of gray low sagebrush seed in 2008-2009 to restore approximately 1,200 acres of fire-affected low sagebrush habitat within the 2005 Esmeralda Fire perimeter. The area to be seeded is on Willow Creek Ridge about 3-4 miles north of Willow Creek Reservoir, in the Squaw Valley Allotment. Emphasis of this project is to improve cover and forage diversity to benefit sage grouse and other species of wildlife that use sagebrush habitat on a seasonal or yearlong basis. Seed collection on public lands would be completed by contractors from intact stands on or near the allotment. Mechanical seeding is proposed to increase success.

**Status:** Scoping

**Contact:** Ken Wilkinson

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

**12. Emigrant Spring Fencing Project**

**Type of Action:** Riparian habitat fencing

**Location:** Drainage west of Emigrant Spring

T 32N, R53E, - Section 28 NE, Section 27 SWNW, and Section 27 NESE.

**Description:** Fencing is proposed for three springs for the purpose of improving riparian habitat conditions. Potential for development of a trough and pipeline system for livestock water will be evaluated as part of the proposal.

**Status:** Project on hold pending completion of the Emigrant Mine EIS (see section B).

**Contact:** Carol Evans

**13. Tijuana John Protective Fence**

**Type of Action:** Burned area rehabilitation plan amendment

**Location:** Tijuana John Pasture, Salmon River Allotment

**Description:** Fencing of the area burned by the 2007 West Basin Fire is proposed to protect the area from damage by livestock grazing until post-fire rehabilitation objectives are met.

**Status:** EA being prepared.

**Contact:** Janice Willard

**14. Trout Creek Exclosure Fence**

**Type of Action:** Riparian habitat fencing

**Location:** Trout Creek Riparian Pasture, Salmon River Allotment

**Description:** Fencing is proposed to exclude livestock from accessing about 3 miles of Trout Creek where stream bank instability and head cutting is substantial.

**Status:** Early planning

**Contact:** Bryan Fuell

**15. Antelope and Antelope Valley Emergency Wild Horse Gather**

**Type of Action:** Wild horse gather

**Location:** 50 miles northeast of Ely, NV (White Pine and Elko counties)

**Description:** The Ely and Elko Field Offices are cooperating in a gather to remove approximately 964 excess wild horses from the Antelope Herd Management Area (HMA) and that portion of the Antelope Valley HMA east of US Highway 93 Alternate in December of 2007. Action is needed to prevent a catastrophic loss of wild horses in the HMAs due to insufficient forage to carry the number of wild horses through the winter.

**Status:** EA (No. NV-040-08-EA-04) posted on Ely Field Office website and mailed for comment 11/16/07. FONSI signed 12/6/07.

**Contact:** Ben Noyes (Ely Field Office, 775-289-1800)

**16. Owyhee Wild Horse Gather**

**Type of Action:** Wild horse management

**Location:** Owyhee Herd Management Area, northwestern Elko County

**Description:** The Tuscarora Field Office proposes to capture about 540 wild horses, and release about 185 and remove about 355 excess wild horses from the Owyhee Herd Management Area (HMA). Fertility control may also be applied to breeding age mares released back to the

**BLM-Elko District Office**  
**Project and Planning Schedule (7/25/2008 Update)**

HMA following the gather. The gather would begin in about October 2008. The proposed gather is needed to achieve and maintain the appropriate management level (AML) and prevent further range deterioration resulting from the current overpopulation of wild horses

**Status:** EA scoping letter mailed 5/1/08

**Contact:** Bruce Thompson